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31 August 1955

## ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

### BETWEEN THE US AND THE USSR

In a note of November 16, 1933 Mr. Litvinov, the People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, informed President Roosevelt that "coincident with the establishment of diplomatic relations" between the United States and the Soviet Union it would "be the fixed policy" of his Government to refrain from any subversive activities of any character against the United States, and not to permit the prosecution of such acts from its territory. [See Annex I.] Mr. Litvinov, on behalf of his Government, gave additional assurances with respect to the right of American citizens to enjoy liberty of conscience and of religious worship, including the right to conduct services; to lease, erect, or maintain churches or other buildings for religious purposes; to collect offerings for religious purposes; and to give religious instruction to their children in the Soviet Union. He stated in a further note that his Government was prepared to include in a consular convention to be negotiated immediately following the establishment of diplomatic relations, provisions in which nationals of the United States should be granted rights with reference to legal protection not less favorable than those enjoyed in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics by nationals of the nations most favored in this respect. He further stated in answer to an inquiry from President Roosevelt that the right to obtain economic information was limited in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, as in other countries, only in the case of business and production

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secrets and in the case of the employment of forbidden methods (bribery, theft, fraud, etc.) to obtain such information. Finally, Mr. Litvinov, on behalf of the Government of the Soviet Union, released and assigned to the Government of the United States all such sums of money as might be admitted to be due or found to be due from American nationals to the Soviet Union as the successor or prior governments of Russia, and waived all claims arising out of activities of the military forces of the United States in Siberia subsequent to January 1, 1918.

Attachment: ANNEX I

Hackworth, ~~Direct~~ Digest Volume I,  
pp. 194-5